



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,761	02/19/2004	Tatsuo Okuda	247595US3 CONT	2081
22850 7590 08/27/2010 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER AGGARWAL, YOGESH K				
ART UNIT 2622		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 08/27/2010		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,761

Applicant(s)

OKUDA, TATSUO

Examiner

YOGESH K. AGGARWAL

Art Unit

2622

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 10-13, 15-17 and 408 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-7, 10-12 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 8 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ ~~Notice of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 15, 16 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 15, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cocca (US Patent # 5,315,342), Tomatsuri et al. (US Patent # 4,367,028) and in further view of Fellegara et al. (US Patent # 5,845,166).

[Claim 1]

Cocca teaches a camera (figure 1) that has a flash system 10 comprises range finder 40, which includes a radiation, e.g. near infrared light, emitter and a photosensitive detector element which detects electromagnetic radiation reflected from indirect reflecting surface 18 and control means 42 are provided for controlling the operation of the flash illumination sources 14 (col. 9 lines 21-31). Cocca teaches a lens 13 secured to said camera body on one side (see figure 1).

Cocca fails to teach a digital camera being longer in a lateral direction than in a vertical direction perpendicular to the lateral direction and said lens located on a first side of the camera body and the flash device at a constant distance from the lens at all times and the lens and flash being arranged in the lateral direction; and a cover device coupled to said camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including a cover member

configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding in the vertical direction, parallel to the surface of the first side of said camera body, within a range of said camera body at the first side of said camera body.

Tomatsuri teaches a camera (figure 3), comprising a camera body (1), said camera body being longer in a lateral direction than in a vertical direction perpendicular to the lateral direction, an optical system including a lens positioned on a first side of said camera body (lens 2); a rangefinder (3), said flash device secured to said camera body on the first side of said camera body and at a same constant distance from said lens camera body and at a constant distance from said lens at all times, and said lens and said flash device being arranged in the lateral direction and (See figure 1, rangefinder 3 is secured to camera body 1); and a cover device (6) coupled to said camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device (see figures 3 and 4, col. 3 lines 51-col 3 line 65), said cover device (6) including a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding in a vertical direction parallel to the surface of the first side of said camera body, within a range of said camera body at the first side of said camera body (col. 3 line 51-col. 3 line 65).

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Cocca and Tomatsuri, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have a camera being longer in a lateral direction than in a vertical direction perpendicular to the lateral direction and said lens and said flash device being arranged in the lateral direction; and a cover device coupled to said camera body and configured to cover said lens and said flash device, said cover device including a cover member configured to cover and uncover said lens and said flash device by sliding in the vertical direction, parallel to the surface of the first side of said camera body,

within a range of said camera body at the first side of said camera body in order to cover the device when not in use to protect from the dust thereby making it easier to care of the camera.

Cocca in view of Tomatsuri fail to teach a digital camera. However Fellegara teaches a digital camera (See A/D converter 118 in figure 6).

Therefore taking the combined teachings of Cocca, Tomatsuri, and Fellegara, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to have a digital camera in order to have digital images that are easier to manipulate and easier to distribute over electronic media (e.g., the Internet or e-mail). Digital image data may be stored, processed, and/or reproduced with ease. The relative ease of handling and processing the digital image data produced by digital cameras allows users to readily enlarge, reduce, or otherwise modify the digital image data to create any of a wide range of photographic effects and styles.

[Claim 4]

Fellegara teaches wherein said cover device is configured to actuate a power switch to said digital camera when said cover device is moved from a closed position to an open position (col. 10 lines 7-17).

[Claim 5]

Fellegara teaches a display device (figure 5, display 36) positioned on a second side of said camera body, wherein said second side of said camera body is opposite to said first side of said camera body (col. 4 lines 35-38).

[Claims 6, 10 and 11]

See Examiner's notes regarding rejection of claims 1, 4 and 5 respectively.

[Claim 7]

Fellegara teaches wherein said lens cover is slidably actuated between an open position and closed position (figure 1 shows a closed position and figure 2 shows a lens cover slidably moved to an open position, col. 3 lines 44-50).

[Claims 12, 15-16]

These are method claims corresponding to apparatus claims 1, 4 and 5 respectively. Therefore these claims have been analyzed and rejected based upon apparatus claims 1, 4 and 5.

[Claim 17]

Tomatsuri teaches in figure 1 wherein said lens and said range finder 3 are horizontally arranged side by side (the horizontal side is read as the vertical length of the camera).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2, 8 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOGESH K. AGGARWAL whose telephone number is (571)272-7360. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yogesh K Aggarwal/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622